

- KELLOGG, V. L. 1914. Beetles becoming parasites. *Sci. N. S.* 39: 360-361.
- NOTMAN, H. 1923. A new genus and species of Staphylinidæ parasitic on a South American opossum. *Am. Mus. Nov.* 68: 1-3.
- SHELFORD, V. E. 1913. *Animal Communities in Temperate America.* Univ. of Chi.
- WEISS, H. B. and WEST, E. 1920. Fungous insects and their hosts. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 33: 1-19.

### THE INSECTS OF THE PANCHATANTRA

It is of interest to note that among the animal actors in the stories of the "Panchatantra," supposedly collocated in Kashmir about 200 B. C., insects play a small part. The stories have been translated recently, from the Sanskrit, by Arthur W. Ryder and published by the University of Chicago Press.

In the story entitled Leap and Creep, this and the others being Mr. Ryder's titles, Creep is a female louse living happily in the bed of a king, and Leap a flea who inveigels the louse into allowing him to sample the king's blood, the plan being for the flea to obtain his meal from the king's feet, when he was asleep or temulent. Instead of doing this, the blundering flea bit the king on the back which resulted in the sudden awakening of the king, a special search of the bed, the discovery of the louse and her family and their destruction.

In the Duel Between the Elephant and Sparrow the gnat assists by buzzing in the ear of the elephant thereby causing him to close his eyes in pleasure after which they were pecked out by a woodpecker. The frog croaking near the edge of a pit entices the elephant to the supposed water where he plunges to his destruction.

In the tale about the Unteachable Monkey a firefly is covered with dry grass and leaves and enjoyed as if it were a real fire, and in The Snake and the Ants a snake in spite of his strength and success in killing large numbers of ants is finally overcome by the exhaustless army. As in other fables, morals are pointed out; in fact the Panchatantra as a whole deals with "the wise conduct of life."—H. B. WEISS.